

Application No.: 10/624,595

Docket No.: 20402-00635-US1

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) A method for serially connecting two carrier tapes with a connecting member,

- said connecting member comprising:
  - a base film;
  - a belt-like reference band substantially fixed on said base film;
  - a bonding tape adhering on said base film; and
  - a cover film covering said bonding tape,

wherein a straight reference face is provided on a longitudinal side of said reference band closely to said bonding tape, and

- said method comprising the steps of:
  - peeling the cover film off said base film;
  - positioning an edge portion of a first carrier tape on said base film in such a manner that said first carrier tape is brought into contact with said reference band along the reference face;
  - bonding the edge portion of said first carrier tape to the bonding tape;
  - positioning an edge portion of a second carrier tape on said base film in such a manner that said second carrier tape is brought into contact with said reference band along the reference face and is also brought into contact with said first carrier tape along their edge portions;
  - bonding the edge portion of said second carrier tape to the bonding tape; and
  - removing an assembly of said first and second carrier tapes serially connected by said bonding tape from said base film.

23. (Original) A method for serially connecting two carrier tapes with a connecting member,

- said connecting member comprising:
  - a base film;
  - a belt-like reference band substantially fixed on said base film;
  - a bonding tape adhering on said base film; and

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a cover film covering said bonding tape,  
wherein a straight reference face is provided on a longitudinal side of said reference band closely to said bonding tape,  
a plurality of feed hole marks are provided between said reference band and said bonding tape on said base film, and  
said feed hole marks are arrayed at predetermined intervals so as to agree with feed holes of each carrier tape,  
said method comprising the steps of:  
peeling the cover film off said base film;  
positioning an edge portion of a first carrier tape on said base film in such a manner that said first carrier tape is brought into contact with said reference band along the reference face and also the position of feed holes of said first carrier tape agrees with the feed hole marks of said base film;  
bonding the edge portion of said first carrier tape to the bonding tape;  
positioning an edge portion of a second carrier tape on said base film in such a manner that said second carrier tape is brought into contact with said reference band along the reference face and is also brought into contact with said first carrier tape along their edge portions;  
bonding the edge portion of said second carrier tape to the bonding tape; and  
removing an assembly of said first and second carrier tapes serially connected by said bonding tape from said base film.

24. (Original) A method for serially connecting two carrier tapes with a connecting member,

said connecting member comprising:  
a base film;  
a belt-like reference band substantially fixed on said base film;  
a bonding tape adhering on said base film; and  
a cover film covering said bonding tape,  
wherein a straight reference face is provided on a longitudinal side of said reference band closely to said bonding tape, and  
an edge mark is provided at a longitudinal center of said base film to indicate a portion corresponding to a cut face of each carrier tape,

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said method comprising the steps of:

- peeling the cover film off said base film;
- positioning an edge portion of a first carrier tape on said base film in such a manner that said first carrier tape is brought into contact with said reference band along the reference face and also the position of said edge portion of said first carrier tape agrees with said edge mark of said base film;
- bonding the edge portion of said first carrier tape to the bonding tape;
- positioning an edge portion of a second carrier tape on said base film in such a manner that said second carrier tape is brought into contact with said reference band along the reference face and is also brought into contact with said first carrier tape along their edge portions;
- bonding the edge portion of said second carrier tape to the bonding tape; and
- removing an assembly of said first and second carrier tapes serially connected by said bonding tape from said base film.

25. (Original) The carrier tape connecting method in accordance with claim 22, wherein each of said first and second carrier tapes has a plurality of carrying holes for accommodating parts and a top tape covering said carrying holes, and the edge portions of said first and second carrier tapes are connected to said bonding tape via said top tape.

26. (Original) A method for serially connecting two carrier tapes with a connecting member,

- said connecting member comprising:
  - a base film;
  - a belt-like reference band substantially fixed on said base film;
  - first and second bonding tapes adhering on said base film; and
  - a cover film covering said first and second bonding tapes,
- wherein a straight reference face is provided on a longitudinal side of said reference band closely to said bonding tapes,
- a folding line is provided between said first and second bonding tapes on said base film,
- and
- said folding line is parallel to said reference face of said reference band,

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said method comprising the steps of:

peeling the cover film off said base film;

positioning an edge portion of a first carrier tape on said base film in such a manner that said first carrier tape is brought into contact with said reference band along the reference face;

bonding one surface of the edge portion of said first carrier tape to the first bonding tape located between said folding line and said reference band;

positioning an edge portion of a second carrier tape on said base film in such a manner that said second carrier tape is brought into contact with said reference band along the reference face and is also brought into contact with said first carrier tape along their edge portions;

bonding one surface of the edge portion of said second carrier tape to said first bonding tape;

folding said base film along said folding line so that the second bonding tape located between said folding line and the other end of said base film is adhered on opposite surfaces of the edge portions of said first and second carrier tapes; and

removing an assembly of said first and second carrier tapes serially connected by said first and second bonding tapes from said base film.

27. (Original) The carrier tape connecting method in accordance with claim 26, wherein each of said first and second carrier tapes has a plurality of carrying holes for accommodating parts and a top tape covering said carrying holes, and the edge portions of said first and second carrier tapes are first connected to said first bonding tape via said top tape and then connected to said second bonding tape.

28. (Original) The carrier tape connecting method in accordance with claim 22, further comprising the step of cutting the edge portions of said first and second carrier tapes into convex and concave shapes just fitting to each other, before said edge portions of said first and second carrier tapes are connected with said connecting member.

29. (Original) The carrier tape connecting method in accordance with claim 22, further comprising the step of cutting the edge portions of said first and second carrier tapes into wavy shapes just fitting to each other, before said edge portions of said first and second carrier tapes are connected with said connecting member.

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30. (Original) The carrier tape connecting method in accordance with claim 28, wherein the edge portions of said first and second carrier tapes are cut with a cutting tool having cutting blades corresponding to said convex and concave shapes.

31. (Original) The carrier tape connecting method in accordance with claim 30, wherein positioning pins, engageable with said feed holes of said carrier tapes, are provided on one cutting blade of said cutting tool.

32. (Original) The carrier tape connecting method in accordance with claim 31, wherein each of said first and second carrier tapes has a plurality of carrying holes for accommodating parts and a top tape covering said carrying holes, and said top tape is cut into convex and concave shapes or into wavy shapes at the edge portions of said carrier tapes.

33. (Original) The carrier tape connecting method in accordance with claim 32, wherein the top tape provided on a leading edge of a downstream carrier tape is cut into a convex shape protruding toward a trailing edge of an upstream carrier tape.

34. (Original) The carrier tape connecting method in accordance with claim 33, wherein said convex shape has a pinnacle at substantially the center of said top tape provided on the leading edge of the downstream carrier tape.